

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

Control over the technology required to copy such material should not be held by any private or industry organized/controlled group, no matter how well intentioned. This is a matter that us citizens have chosen to be handled through the US House and Senate, with assistance by the FCC. Any private or industry organized/controlled group does NOT answer to "we the people" therefore, how could it not interfere with the decisions of "we the people"; it will by it's very nature continually interfere with what consumers (we the people) desire to record with digital technology.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices? Once again, if these private or industry organized/controlled entities can control WHAT "we the people" record, they most certainly will control WHERE we send/transmit it to, regardless of what transmission technology or frequencies "we the people" utilize, that at present we are legally authorized to utilize.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

Of course it would. Electronically, this would be extremely easy to engineer into the new equipment, a fail safe to prevent a user from utilizing old technology with the new, as a cost saving measure, thus SERVING the industry, not the consumer.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Yes, present laws on the books deter myself from some experimentation due to worries that I will unintentionally break a rule or law in the pursuit of technological innovation. This proposal, if enacted, would place more restrictions on innovation, making it not worth the time of experimenters to continue the private research.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

HDTV equipment is ALREADY FAR ABOVE WHAT CONSUMERS CAN JUSTIFIEDLY AFFORD, Adding the requirement that manufacturers add more "required" circuitry to their designs can only increase the costs of this equipment, thus insuring that a large segment of the population of "we the people" will continue to be UNABLE TO AFFORD THE NEW TECHNOLOGY, and WE WILL BE LEFT OUT OF THE LOOP IN THE FUTURE concerning news and entertainment programming. In a society such as ours that relies so heavily on this technology, to allow this proposal to take effect would only hurt and alienate "WE THE PEOPLE" as a whole.

Other Comments:

The implementation of this law, though well intentioned, would, without a doubt, flow out beyond the entertainment arena, to affect a large portion of the general computing industry concerning usage, affecting FAR MORE than the ruling/law ever originally intended. I vote as one of "We the people" that this ruling/law should NOT be implemented.

